

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title of the invention as follows:

METHOD, SYSTEM, AND APPARATUS FOR DETACHING AND COLLECTING
AN IC TAG FROM A PAPER SHEET TO WHICH IT IS ATTACHED

~~PAPER SHEET BONDED IC TAG SEPARATION RECOVERY METHOD AND
SEPARATION RECOVERY SYSTEM, AND SEPARATION RECOVERY DEVICE~~

On page 1 after the title, please insert the following:

CROSS - REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present Application is based on International Application No. PCT/JP2004/00478, filed on January 21, 2004, which in turn corresponds to JP 2003-013367 filed on January 22, 2003, and priority is hereby claimed under 35 USC §119 based on these applications. Each of these applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety into the present application.

On page 12, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

The swelling unit 10 is equipped with a mender-shaped flow path 11, which is sloped so that water can flow slowly. Warm water containing an enzyme is continuously supplied to the most upstream portion of the flow path 11. The undetached IC tag 3 is transferred to the most upstream portion of the flow path 11 by a conveyer 12 and flows slowly through the flow path [[10]] 11 along with warm water supplied. When the undetached IC tag is flowing through the flow path [[10]] 11, the mount 2 holds water and swells. If water percolates up to the pasted surface (adhesive surface) between the IC tag 1 and the mount 2, the paste on the pasted surface is gradually dissolved in water and is decomposed by an enzyme contained in that water. The time during which the undetached IC tag 3 passes through the flow path [[10]] 11, that is, the processing time in the first step is set in consideration of the time from when water percolates up to the mount 2 to when an enzyme acts on the pasted surface between the IC tag 1 and the mount 2.

On page 13, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

The detacher ~~[[12]]~~ 13 is equipped with a second flow path 14, which is coupled to the exit of the first flow path 11 of the swelling unit 10. The aforementioned warm water flows from the first flow path ~~[[10]]~~ 11 into the second flow path 14, along with the undetached IC tag 3. The second flow path 14 is provided with a jet unit 15, which is used to produce a jet containing bubbles. If a jet is sent out into a stream of water, the undetached IC tag 3 flowing along the second flow path 14 is agitated. If it is agitated, external force acts on the pasted surface between the IC tag 1 and the mount 2. The external force to act on the pasted surface is very weak, but since the adhesive force of the paste is made weak by the dissolution of the paste into water and the decomposition effect of an enzyme, the IC tag 1 is slowly detached from the mount 2 by that weak external force. The paste remaining on the detached IC tag 1 is decomposed by the action of an enzyme in warm water and is washed clean, and the mount 2 is gradually decomposed (disintegrated) into its fiber-shaped componets by the solvent action of water relative to paper and the force of a jet.